

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 18 of page 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 6 shows a situation in which the relative position between the starting rod and the burners varies with time in the above-described method, and in which the tapered portion can be minimized in this kind of method. In Fig. 6, there are shown portions of the outermost burner 2 and the second burner 3 in a row of burners. Numerical values on the right-hand side indicate the number of deposited layers of soot on the starting rod 1 during a series of reciprocal movements until the turn-back position is returned to the initial position. As the soot formed by the ~~third~~ second burner and thereafter are formed in portions below 18 layers of Fig. 6, the number of layers constantly remains to be ~~18~~ 20.

**AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS:**

Approval of the changes made to Figure 6, as shown in the attached Replacement Sheet, and on the attached Annotated Sheet Showing Changes, is courteously solicited. The changes are required to correct an informality in the specification.

FIG.5

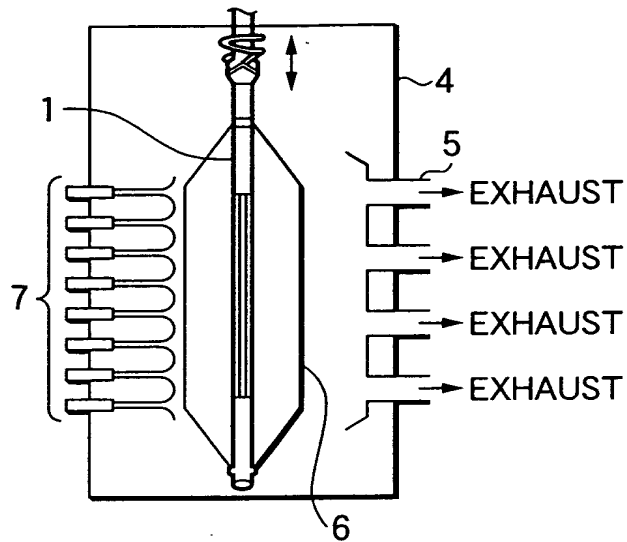


FIG.6

